Preamble put and agreed to.

President.—Now your motion must be that the Bill may be taken up and passed.

Mr. A. Sankara Menon.—I move that the Bill to amend the Cochin Penal Code may be taken up and passed on Wednesday.

Mr. T. K. Krishna Menon.— I second it.

President.—The question before the House is that the Bill to amend the Cochin Penal Code be taken up and passed at a meeting on Wednesday, the 3rd of Dhanu 1105.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill to amend the Cochin Municipal Regulation XI of 1096.

President.—The next item is that the Law Member will move to introduce 'A Bill to amend the Cochin Municipal Regulation XI of 1096.'

Mr. A. Sankara Menon.—Sir, I move that the Bill to amend the Cochin Municipal Regulation XI of 1096 be read in Council. Sir, under the present Regulation companies cannot be taxed more than Rs. 250. That is the maximum allowed. When the Regulation was passed companies with larger capitals than 10 lakhs were not in existence. Now it is thought necessary to amend the Regulation so that those companies having larger capitals may be taxed more. This fact was brought to the notice of the Government by the Chairman of the Ernakulam Municipal Council. The maximum tax under this Regulation will be one thousand rupees instead of two hundred and fifty rupees under the present Regulation.

President.—Therefore, under the present Regulation the maximum is only Rs. 250 and by this amendment it will be five hundred rupees on companies having a capital of not less than twenty lakhs and thousand under companies having a capital of not less than fifty lakhs.

Mr. A. Sankara Menon.—Yes, Sir.

Mr. T. K. Krishna Menon.—I second it.

President.—Any Member wishing to speak on this Bill?

Mr. P. Krishna Menon.—Sir, I hope it is within the knowledge of this House that the point taken in this Bill is not the only point that has to be attended to so far as the Regulation XI of 1096 is concerned. A number of points upon which

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amendments or even initial legislation has to be resorted to has, I am rightly informed, been brought to the notice of the Government. So my only doubt is whether it would not be better to introduce a Bill on a comprehensive scale so that this piecemeal legislation may be avoided. Now, if it is to be referred to a Select Committee, it may be possible to incorporate the other provisions which appear to be necessary. I do not know whether it is the intention of the Hon'ble the mover of the Bill to refer it to a Select Committee. In that case this defect can be remedied.

President.—The Select Committee will have to go into the whole provisions But such a Bill is not before the Council. This is only one isolated matter.

Mr. P. Krishna Menon.—But the practice has been to give a little discretion to the Select Committee to incorporate the changes which are not incorporated in the Bill.

President.—But when it is a general amendment we can understand that. But here it is only one isolated matter. This is a concern which they could readily tap. As soon as the Bill is passed, the Municipal authorities will get the money. If all the other points are incorporated in this Bill, there may be controversial measures and it may take some time. So the point is this.

Mr. P. Krishna Menon.—I do not know whether it is so urgently necessary.

President.—The urgency is this. Some more money may be had for purposes of Municipal Administration. That is the only point and that is the only purpose.

Mr. P Krishna Menon.—About referring to the Select Committee?

President.—The point being simple there may not be the necessity of referring to a Select Committee.

Mr. P Krishna Menon.—My only suggestion is in fact to hava a consolidated bill.

President.—When it is to be introduced or brought before the Council?

Mr P. Krishna Menon.—The Municipalities have put their heads together and come to certain conclusions.

President.—Unless there is some principle involved which is controversial, I think it is better to pass it as it is.

Mr. P. Krishna Menon.—Of course I leave it to the sense of the House.

President.—We have done it on many occasions, In connection with the tenure of the Chairman for a term of three years and the election of the Chairman from among the Councillors,

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these piecemeal legislations were carried. This is also one of that kind.

Mr. P. Krishna Menon.—If the others are not considered, then they may be left over.

President.—It has not yet come. It is a laborious task, and there may be delay. Now yours is only a suggestion and not by way of opposition. I think we may better carry this out.

The question before the House is that "*the Bill to amend the Cochin Municipal Regulation, XI of 1096, moved by the Law Member and seconded by Mr. T. K. Krishna Menon, be read in Council.*

Question put and agreed to.

Secretary to the Council.—The title of the Bill is 'a Bill to amend the Cochin Municipal Regulation, XI of 1095'.

President.—Then I suppose you have to request the President to suspend Standing Order No. 32.

Mr. A. Sankara Menon.—Under Standing Order No.32, I request that the rule of 15 days may be suspended.

President.—Permission granted.

Mr. A. Sankara Menon.—Sir, I beg to move that the Bill be taken up for consideration.

Mr. T. K. Krishna Menon.—I second it.

President.—The question before the House is that the "*Bill to amend the Cochin Municipal Regulation, XI of 1096 be taken up for consideration*".

Question put and agreed to.

President.—"1. This Regulation may be called the Cochin Municipal Regulation (Amendment) Regulation.....of.....and it shall come into force at once."

Clause put and agreed to.

President.—"2. In Schedule I add the following as clauses A and B, and re-letter the clauses A, B, C, D, E and F as C, D, E, F, G and H respectively:—

A. Not less than 50 lakhs of rupees. Rs. 1,000.
B. Not less than 20 lakhs of rupees. Rs. 500."

Clause put and agreed to.

President.—Then the preamble "Whereas it is expedient further to amend the Cochin Municipal Regulation, XI of 1096, it is hereby enacted as follows:—"

Preamble put and agreed to.

Mr. A. Sankara Menon.—I move that this Bill may be taken up and passed on Wednesday, the 3rd of Dhanu 1105.

Mr. T. K. Krishna Menon.—I second it.

President.—The question before the House is that the *Bill to amend the Cochin Municipal Regulation, XI of 1096 be*

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taken up and passed at a meeting on Wednesday, the 3rd of Dhanu 1105.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolutions on Matters of General Public Interest.

1. Diversion of water from the Karuvannur river.

President.—Next resolutions. The first resolution stands in the name of Mr. C. J. Mathew.

Mr. C. J. Mathew.—Sir, I rise to move "*that in view of the great sufferings caused by successive floods from the Manali and Kurumali rivers, this House recommends to the Government to take up at once the scheme of the diversion of water from the Karuvannur river*".

You, Sir, the Hon'ble Member for Revenue, the permanent Chief Engineer and the Commissioner of Police are all eye-witnesses to the great amount of destruction wrought by the recent floods. You also know with what amount of worry, anxiety and deep concern you all watched the daily increase of water from hour to hour and moment to moment. You all tried also your very best to prevent the flood, if possible, by effective and timely action taken then and there. But, Sir, we all know too well the principle that a stitch in time saves nine. Any amount of alert measure taken at that particular hour would be absolutely of no avail as we have already seen. So, let us see what effective measures we ought to take now in order to bring in real relief.

Now, with regard to the extent of the destruction—to make but a small estimate of it—I understand 16,000 acres of paddy fields in the areas bordering the Manali and the Kurumali rivers are seriously affected. Nearly 1,50,000 inhabitants are injured. And these are paddy fields which would ordinarily yield about 300 lakhs of *paras* of paddy. All these are totally destroyed and ruined by these recurring floods every year round. Just now we were told that about 8,000 rupees had to be distributed among the poorest of the people who lost their homes and everything. All these would clearly convince the House that some effective measure ought to be set on foot now and at once. This matter had been urged by this House from its very inauguration, as we shall find, if we look into the past records. The Chief Engineer had dealt with this question at length (vide appendix to the questions and answers of the Budget Session of 1102). He says :—

"The problem presented is one of drainage. The main drainage courses in question are the Manali and Kurumali rivers which are characteristic hill-streams and torrential in nature. The Karuvannur river at certain places could, during ordinary floods, discharge not more than 10,000 cusecs of water while the catchment area would yield about 30,000 cusecs. This is about 3 times more than the capacity of the ordinary drainage. *So unless*

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